

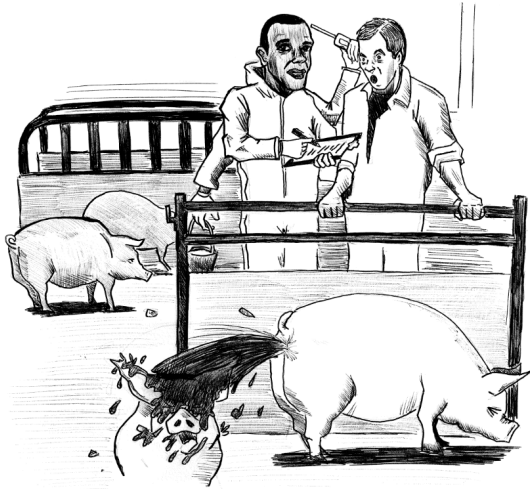


# VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

(Division of British Veterinary Association)

## VPHA's position on Ante Mortem Inspection Requirements,

REGULATION (EU) 2017/625 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 15 March 2017



**An outcome of ante mortem inspection is the duty and responsibility of a veterinarian. Ante mortem inspection skills are a Day one competence.**

Mr Lord / Barry Cheswick

1. Ante mortem inspection may be carried out on an individual animal or on a group of animals according to the professional standards agreed which may be described as:
  - routine inspection; observing animals when moving and/or at rest
  - clinical inspection; closer inspection but not full clinical examination
  - clinical examination; a full clinical examination
2. This approach gives assurances to the public and industry of the adequate protection and control of animal health (notifiable exotic disease) and public health (zoonoses) and welfare of animals. This will also continuously ensure the smooth and sustainable trade in animals and Products of Animal Origin (POAO).
3. VPHA supports Official Auxiliaries (OAs) continuous involvement in complementing veterinarians in both ante and post mortem inspection tasks, however OAs cannot be responsible for the outcome of ante mortem inspection. Some examples of OAs important tasks are: *checking the documentation (ID/ FCI) screening, marking and separating abnormal animals for veterinary ante mortem (either routine, clinical inspection or full examination)*
4. Theoretically, practically and legally OAs do not carry out ante mortem inspections, although they play an important role in assisting vets. **Veterinarians remain ultimately responsible for the outcome of ante mortem inspection and are required to verify OAs work.**